

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /075 W
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O 131605Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5950
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0544

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: WA, PINT, PINS, PFOR, SF
SUBJ: MUDGE REJECTS ELECTIONS PRIOR TO INTERIM
GOVERNMENT FOR NAMIBIA

1. SPEAKING TO WHITE VORTERS APRIL 12 AT OUTJO, NAMIBIA,
TURNHALLE CHAIRMAN DIRK MUDGE, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO
THE 5-POWER DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA, REPORTEDLY REJECTED
THE CONCEPT OF ELECTIONS PRIOR TO INSTALLATION OF AN
INTERIM GOVERNMENT FOR NAMIBIA AND TURNED DOWN ANY
THOUGHT OF A GENEVA-TYPE CONFERENCE ON THE TERRITORY.
ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS, INCLUDING PROMINENT SABC COVERAGE,
MUDGE SAID: THE ETHNIC GROUPS REPRESENTED AT TURNHALLE WILL
FOLLOW THEIR OWN COURSE DESPITE PRESSURE FROM THE WESTERN MEMBERS
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OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT HAD TO
BE GIVEN A CHANCE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SWAPO. MUDGE
HAD EXPECTED WESTERN COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT THE TRUNHALLE
SINCE HE REGARDED THEM AS ALLIES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
COMMUNISM. THE DEMAND FOR ELECTIONS AT THIS TIME WAS
NEITHER REALISTIC NOR LOGICAL. THE SAME STANDARD HAD
NOT BEEN APPLIED TO MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA OR OTHER

AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE APPEALED TO THE WEST TO "GIVE US A CHANCE TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS." IF THEY DO NOT HEED THE APPEAL, "WE WILL TAKE THE CHANCE." "WE ARE ON THE ROAD TO TAKING OUR OWN DECISIONS. WE WILL NOT STOP WHERE WE ARE. WE WIL RUND THE FULL COURSE." WHEN ELECTIONS ARE EVENTUALLY HELD, THE POPULATION WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT OR AMEND THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION.

2. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT PM VORSTER, IN RESPONSE TO FIVE-POWER DEMARCHE, SAID HE WIL WILLING TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA, BUT HE WOULD NOT DICTATE TO TURNHALLE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE MUDGE SPEECH WAS COORDINATED WITH THE SAG. HE HAS BEEN IN TOWN DURING LAST FEW DAYS BECAUSE FON MIN BOTHA TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD TALKED TO HIM. IF THIS IS A COORDINATED STATEMENT AND IS READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH PM VORSTER'S CAVEAT IN AGREEING TO DISCUSSIONS, IT DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR THE TALKS. BEFORE REACHING ANY CONCLUSIONS, HOWEVER, WE NEED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHT MUDGE SAID (HE REPORTEDLY SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY) AND DO SOME PROBING WITH FOR MIN BOTHA FOR ITS MEANING. I WILL BE SEEING BOTHA TONIGHT AT DINNER FOR SECRETARY OWEN AND WILL TRY TO GET A READING ON IMPORT OF MUDGE SPEECH. BOWDLER

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